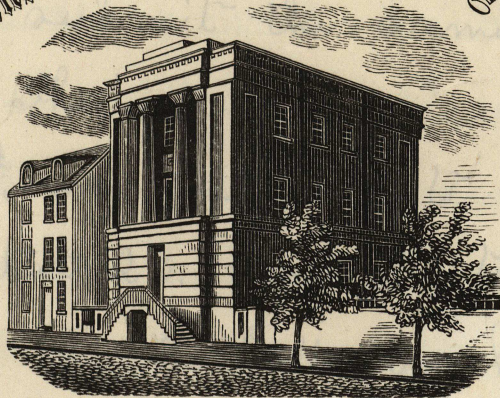


A Case from Practice

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY

of the

Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania,



FOR

The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

BY

William R. Childs

Philadelphia, February 1st 1863

~ Case from Practice ~

In June last my preceptor - Dr L. P. Dake - being called away from home, left me in charge of his practice.

Among many other cases I was called upon to treat, the following I deemed of sufficient interest to keep a record of; and now submit the same in the shape of a thesis.

June 29th, was called on to attend Lieut B - Atat 23, sanguine temperament; he gave me the following history.

Last March, when in camp near Washington City, had an attack of "measles", the rash appearing on face, body and extremities, after it had been out about three days, he was exposed to bad weather, causing the eruption to subside, followed by severe cough

and expectoration of bloody mucus;
was under treatment for this about two
weeks. In the month of April contrac-
ted "Poxa" from some of his mess mat-
es, repelled the eruption with Mercu-
rial ointments. Has very much ex-
posed while lying with his Regiment
before Yorktown. On May 3rd at battle
of "Williamsburg", he was injured by com-
cussion of, or close passage of, a Cannon
ball or shell; had diarrhoea and Chills
for three weeks subsequent, took Mer-
cury and Opium; also a gill of this-
key and one grain of Quinine ^{three times} daily: the
Regiment still continuing on the march,
he would not remain behind at the
Hospital. May 31st they went into the
engagement at "Fair Oaks": their

orders were, "fall flat upon the ground at the appearance of shell": while lying in this position a shell struck about twenty or thirty yards in front ricocheted over him, carrying off his cap, and tearing his gum blanket and coat from off his back: he was carried to the rear by some soldiers, where after lying in an insensible state for an hour or two he gradually returned to his senses, was taken to the Hospital and examined, his left side and back was found to be very badly bruised: this appearance extending across the left side of the abdomen: (the crystal and works of his watch were completely shattered, and lay loose within the case.) he was pronounced

ced injured internally. In company with many others was placed on board a vessel and sent to "New York City"; the treatment he there received, was external frictions, cathartics, and Belladonna plaster applied to side for a week; after which time he regained the use of his left side, arm and leg, which had been paralyzed for some time. - 8 or 10 days he thinks. - The latter part of June obtained leave of absence to visit his family in Pittsburg: was there treated allopathically for nervousness, feverishness at night, and loss of sleep; took Tincture of Valerian and blue pills, four times daily, with Morphia pill at bed time. Becoming tired of this system of drugging, and finding himself no better, he dropped

all treatment for two weeks; at the end of which time I was called upon to take charge of the case.

I found him very nervous - every noise, or movement in the room causing him to start - difficulty in fixing his attention, could not concentrate his thoughts upon any one subject but for a short time, as it gave him intense pain all through his head - mind wandering - flighty at times - particularly at night - sleep short and dreamy, unrefreshing - giddiness when in erect posture - tinnitus aurium - pain down the spine - and stinging pain over back as if struck by a bundle of switches, and presenting that appearance - dull pain in left hypochondriac

regions - Abdomen swollen, hard -
Bowels constipated, flatulency - Appetite
poor, except for Acids - saltish taste -
Tongue coated - sweat at night, during
sleep - feverish in afternoon and evening -
thirst - pulse strong and frequent -

Gave "Aconite"-3 and "Belladonna"-3. Alternately
in solution, (All the medicines used
were prepared on the decimal scale)
dose, a teaspoonfull every two hours.

Diet - toast, rice, or barley water, with
oatmeal gruel; avoiding all kinds of
excitement, such as company, papers
containing war news &c. *internal heat.*

Third day. Less fever. Pain in hypochondrium
better - mouth not so dry. - Still
complains of head, and aching pain in
back - last two nights very restless, talks

of fatter - becomes much excited - tongue
feels stiff and too large for mouth - can't
talk without stuttering - continued "Acon-
it" 3 and gave "Hyoscinus" 3 in place of
"Belladonna" - Diet same as before. -

Fifth day. Slight improvement generally -
feels low spirited, thinks he will never
get well. Same remedies. dose three
hours apart.

Seventh day. Spirit very low, don't want
to take any medicine. pulse 80 hard,
irregular. - tongue coated yellowish -
sour taste - pain in bowels - burbagg-
mus - still constipated - internal heat,
external chilliness - sweat in morning
early - "Nux vomica" 3. in solution. "Aren-
icum" 3 trit. in powder every two hours
alternately - to lengthen intervals to three

hours on improvement.

Thirteenth day. Has been gradually improving every day since I last saw him. in better spirits - pains in back, sides, and bowels very slight at times. bowels regular. head clearer - no ringing in ears - sleep better, but still disturbed - some fever in afternoon - sweat at night towards morning. "Arsenicum" 6th trit. in powder - one every four hours - diet Beef-tea and peas for dinner, light Custard in morning and at night.

Seventeenth day. Still improving. able to come down stairs to meals. "Arsenicum" 6th trit. continued. a powder four times daily - allow him a more generous diet. Meat once a day, at dinner, morning and evening meal light.

Exercise in open air. Has sent for on
twenty first day: on 18th had ridden out,
spent the day with a friend, drank wine
and smoked a cigar: came home very
much exhausted - passed a sleepless
night - felt feverish, had headache and
pain in back all next day: last night
noticed a roughness of his skin, with
tingling and creeping sensation - this
morning has an eruption on body, arms
and thighs, worse on back - small white
vesicles very close together, of an Eczema-
tous nature, produced by over exertion
and heating of the blood - I presume -
Gave "Belladonna"-6. and "Rhus Tox". 6^d
alternately in solution - a teaspoonful
every three hours. Under the action of
these medicines he improved so much

that he reported, by letter, for duty. was ordered to Philadelphia: he passed out of my hands in quite a good condition, just four weeks from the time I first saw him. On his arrival in Phila^{de} he put on the Recruiting service; he had been here but two weeks, when he was laid up again, from imprudent exposure, and use of stimulants. He was taken to the — — U S Hospital; An eruption marking its appearance, he was told by the very learned doctors in charge, that he had a very peculiar diseased condition of the blood and liver, and unless properly treated it would run into Syphilis: they at once put him on the use of Iodide of Potassium with the Bi Chloride of Mercury. Not liking

this kind of treatment, he obtained a Surgeons certificate of sickness and returned home.

It was about a month after he had passed out of my hands, that he sent for me again. I found him with an eruption on upper and lower extremities, and partly on body; the parts most affected were his shoulders, elbows, nates, sacrum and knees, extending down outer sides of legs: at these points the vesicles had become confluent, and cracked open on movement, causing a discharge of ichorous matter. Gave Nitric Acid. $\frac{1}{2}$ ss four drops in table spoonful of water, four times daily. This he used for three days. I then gave him "Sulphur" $\frac{3}{4}$ ss in powder

and "Rhus".3- in solution, every four hours alternately: ordering him to bathe with hot water and Brecknell's Skin Soap, in the morning, and tepid water alone at night: this course he continued for eight days, at which time there appearing but little amelioration, and no softening of the scabs: I prepared him some Sulphur ointment - 1 part Sulphur and 3 parts Lard - to use, and gave internally "Dulcamara".3. and "Hepar Sulphuris"⁶ alternately, four times daily, this he continued to use with much benefit for about three weeks, at the end of which time they appeared to me to have ceased acting. I gave then "Belladonna".13. and "Mercurius Corrosivus".6. 2 powders daily, still continuing

the use of the Sulphur ointment.

These Medicines he was using when I left Pittsburg for the Lectures Oct 12th.

I next saw him the middle of November, he was still using the same remedies: at that time, the only places that had not entirely healed was on one wrist, and over the right Tibia.

I saw him last, about the first of January he was entirely well - said he had never before enjoyed as good health as then.